



US006459418B1

(12) **United States Patent**
Comiskey et al.(10) **Patent No.: US 6,459,418 B1**
(45) **Date of Patent: Oct. 1, 2002**(54) **DISPLAYS COMBINING ACTIVE AND
NON-ACTIVE INKS**(75) Inventors: **Barrett Comiskey**, Cambridge; **Joseph
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MA (US)(73) Assignee: **E Ink Corporation**, Cambridge, MA
(US)(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.(21) Appl. No.: **09/141,041**(22) Filed: **Aug. 27, 1998****Related U.S. Application Data**(63) Continuation-in-part of application No. 08/983,404, filed on
Mar. 26, 1999, which is a continuation-in-part of application
No. 08/935,800, filed on Sep. 23, 1997, now Pat. No.
6,120,588, which is a continuation-in-part of application No.
08/504,896, filed on Jul. 20, 1995, now Pat. No. 6,124,851
(60) Provisional application No. 60/093,689, filed on Jul. 22,
1998, provisional application No. 60/092,050, filed on Jul. 8,
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application No. 60/057,133, filed on Aug. 28, 1997.(51) **Int. Cl.⁷** **G09G 3/34; G02F 1/1333;**
G02F 1/13; G02B 26/00(52) **U.S. Cl.** **345/107; 345/901; 345/87;**
349/86; 349/187; 359/296(58) **Field of Search** **345/107, 901,**
345/87; 359/298; 349/86, 187(56) **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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graphic Technology," *SID 88 Digest*, 1988, pp. 61-62.*Primary Examiner*—Bipin Shalwala*Assistant Examiner*—David L. Lewis(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Testa, Hurwitz & Thibault,
LLP(57) **ABSTRACT**

A process for creating an electronically addressable display includes multiple printing operations, similar to a multi-color process in conventional screen printing. In some of the process steps, electrically non-active inks are printed onto areas of the receiving substrate, and in other steps, electrically active inks are printed onto different areas of the substrate. The printed display can be used in a variety of applications. This display can be used as an indicator by changing state of the display after a certain time has elapsed, or when a certain pressure, thermal, radiative, moisture, acoustic, inclination, pH, or other threshold is passed. In one embodiment, the display is incorporated into a battery indicator. A sticker display is described. The sticker is adhesive backed and may then be applied to a surface to create a functional information display unit. This invention also features a display that is both powered and controlled using radio frequencies. It describes a complete system for controlling, addressing, and powering a display. The system includes an antenna or antennae, passive charging circuitry, and active control system, a display, and an energy storage unit. There is also a separate transmitter that provides the remote power for the display. The system is meant to be used anywhere it is useful to provide intermittent updates of information such as in a store, on a highway, or in an airport. A tile-based display allowing a modular system for large area display is created using a printable display material.

12 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets